

May 2, 1950.

Dr. Curt Stern,
Dept. Zoology,
University of California,
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Dr. Stern:

I ran into a pamphlet issued by "Carlton Fredericks", some time ago, in which he implied "There is some evidence that the father's diet before conception also affects the child." His stuff seems to be just a peg above the usual quackery, so I marked that sentence, and returned the pamphlet asking "What evidence!!?". I am enclosing a copy of his reply with the thought it might interest you. I hardly know whether to write back to him. This seems to be a fairly common fallacy, but as Mrs. Lederberg says, it won't do any harm to feed the father as well as the mother. Fredericks doesn't seem to be peddling anything -- he makes a point of referring his listeners to their physicians, and so on, so I feel that he is simply misinformed. At any rate, you should be interested in the "vast body of evidence" he presents in his letter.

Do you have any idea what he means by Murphy's dictum, or Warkany?

As you probably know, I shall be teaching in the Bacteriology Department at Berkeley during the IId Summer Session. I hope that you will be on campus then, so that we can get together often.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg